# THE REBEL

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# The Truth About Aberhart

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

In order to avoid any misunderstanding as to my motive and purpose in launching THE REBEL, I would ask the public to give careful study to the following:

Since long before the provincial election of 1935 I have consistently contended:

1. That William Aberhart, B.A., is a serious menace to the political, economic, moral and spiritual welfare of the country.

2. That the peculiar teachings and preachings by Aberhart and claimed by him to be Social Credit are in fact contrary to the theory of Social Credit.

3. That the issue before the people of Alberta never has been and is not now one of Social Credit as opposed to any other political ideas, but, rather, one of morals and ethics.

Developments during the past two years have, I believe, amply demonstrated the soundness of my contentions. I submit that Aberhart has been responsible for bringing the political state of the province to the lowest standard in the history of Canada; that he has brought the province to the verge of economic ruin; that he has injured public morality by his lying and slandering and by his public advocacy of immoral practices; and that the spiritual condition of the people has been seriously affected by his blasphemous abuse of the Word of God for political purposes.

That Social Credit has not been the major issue before the people has been made clear by the fact that Aberhart's perversion of that theory has been denounced as false by the leading Social Crediters of the world, including Major Douglas, and more recently by many of Aberhart's own hand-picked members of the Alberta legislature.

Further, I have contended all along that our public men, some newspapers, and others in positions of authority and influence, whose business it should be to understand and deal with the fundamentals of the situation, have failed to do so. Almost without exception, they have dealt with Aberhartism as though it were Social Credit. Their opposition and criticism has been directed at a target that does not exist, with the result that it has not only been futile, but has in large measure added to the confusion; and the real issue, which is one of morals and ethics, has been almost entirely neglected.

Aberhart has been treated as though he were an honest, honorable man trying to introduce Social Credit; whereas the truth is that Aberhart is a dishonest, dishonorable, lying, blaspheming charlatan, who insinuated himself into power by deception and misrepresentation, and is morally unfit to hold the office of premier.

I hold these views because I believe them to be more in accord with the facts than those generally expressed publicly in regard to the Alberta situation. And I give expression to these views because I believe that it is only by doing so that the realities of the problem before us can be reached.

I am firmly convinced that in all of the foregoing I am expressing the convictions of thousands of citizens in a manner in which expression is now denied them by the regular press, for the simple reason that the ordinary newspaper cannot afford to deal with the situation in the manner indicated.

My primary purpose in publishing THE REBEL may therefore be summarised as follows:

To expose Aberhart for what he is, in a manner and in language that will deal fearlessly and frankly with the realities of the situation; and

To provide a medium for the free discussion of these realities, to the end that through presentation of the real truth the real issue may

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## ABERHART PROBLEMS

In the course of the past two years we have received many letters from devout followers of Mr. Aberhart in criticism of our opposition to the teachings of their revered leader. In the main, they consisted of vitriolic, senseless abuse. But not all were of this type. Some were very fair and reasonable, while others were pathetic in the extreme. Into the latter category is one received from an apparently sweet lady at Didsbury, who, after having expressed a desire to slap our face, in her first letter, wrote again to apologize for her exhibition of temper after we had written to her and given a few reasons for our opposition to Aberhart, and had, incidentally, told her just what we thought of him. In her second letter she said that if she thought that Aberhart "could be as you describe that poor man, I should lose all faith in mankind in general and life would be finished for me."

An even more pathetic case was reported to us a short time ago at first hand in which a woman had to be forcibly restrained from throwing herself from a window high up in a Calgary office building when her faith in Aberhart was brought into question.

These two cases illustrate in a positive manner the existence of a most serious problem as the result of the reason-destroying propaganda by William Aberhart. There is no doubt but that the lady from Didsbury has expressed not only her own state of mind, but also that of thousands of other good people throughout the province who, in simple trust and faith, have regarded Aberhart as a man of God, as a modern Moses sent to deliver the people of the province from the much-publicized fetters of economic slavery. And there is no doubt but that the attitude of mind of the dear Calgary lady who attempted to end her life likewise exemplifies that of many others.

What is going to happen to these trusting men and women who have been and still are according to Aberhart a devotion akin to worship? That their exaggerated loyalty is little short of idolatry does not minimize the seriousness of the problem. When these poor deluded souls discover, as they will, that their revered leader is not the divinely-appointed saviour he represents himself to be, but a conscienceless racketeer who ruthlessly played fast and loose with their affections and emotions, what is going to happen? Our prediction is that unless something is done, now, toward easing the inevitable shock of disillusionment, the minds of many of these poor souls will crack under the strain when Aberhart finally stands revealed in all the ugliness of his real self. It is highly probable that there will be not only wide-spread anger and resentment and even physical violence, but an increase in suicide and insanity. It is certain that the cause of religion will suffer a serious set-back. Men and women will be turned against religion and God. They will point to Aberhart with scorn and say: "There is a man who represents religion and God; religion is a delusion, a fake." And thus Aberhartism will destroy not only the bodies of men, but also their minds, their faith, and their very souls.

One of the primary reasons for publication of The Rebel is to assist in the solution of this serious problem. We know that Aberhart must fall in utter and complete disgrace and dishonor, and that with this fall disillusionment must come. By our exposure of Aberhart we hope to hasten his downfall and at the same time to ease the shock of disillusionment.

# THE REBEL

Editor and Publisher—J. J. Zubick

426 - 15th Street N.W., Calgary, Alberta

"INDEPENDENT ALWAYS—NEUTRAL NEVER"


## REBELETTES

Insurgency appears to be contagious. The Young Liberals are up on their hind legs telling the old boys the time for fence-straddling has gone. The mugwumpery of the Liberal party under the misdirection of those in control during the critical days of 1935 left a bad taste in the mouth, and the younger fellows are determined, we hope, to do something about regaining their political self-respect.

What are the Young Conservatives going to do in the battle just ahead? The situation in unhappy Alberta is calling for the application of principles and policies that are fundamental and sane. Aberhartism and Conservatism are as contradictory in principle as peace and war. What more perfect set-up could you wish for a swell fight? Or don't you wanna fight?

We were, if we may express ourself thus, pleasantly disappointed to find Fred Anderson among the insurgents. We did not think that he had the gumption to let go of poppa's coat-tail. We still don't trust this bird, as we have good reason not to do so. He is the chap who insinuated in a radio talk that our radio addresses of two years ago had been written for us, the purpose of the implication being, of course, that we were not capable of doing this ourself, and thus holding us up to ridicule by his falsehood.

Since our announcement of intention to publish The Rebel, a Danish friend has greeted us several times as "The Rabble." We are not sure whether this is meant to be funny or just a matter of accent.

S. R. Foster, a red-hot Aberhart fan of Carstairs, wrote to us recently: "What you need is someone to take you into the back yard and beat the h--l out of you." Please note that Mr. Foster's pugilistic ambitions are such that he would delegate the execution of his desires to someone else. One of these "Let George do it" lads.

Speaking from the Aberhart pulpit in Edmonton recently, Mrs. Edith Gostick, M.L.A., inferentially compared Aberhart with Jesus Christ and the insurgents of the House with those who crucified Him. "Must there be another crucifixion," she asked, "in order to achieve economic salvation?" This woman has been an apt pupil of her leader in the practice of polluting religion. This lady is due for the honor of further mention in The Rebel.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**—(Continued from Page One)—

be brought to a head and a new effort may be made to solve our problems on a basis of sanity and reason.

Finally, I desire it to be understood that I shall ask no favors in my fight against the shams and hyprocrisies of Aberhart and Aberhartism. It will be my aim to prove to the satisfaction of all concerned that Aberhart is without shadow of doubt guilty of the terrible moral crimes of which I have accused him, and I am fully aware of the fact that the onus of providing the proof is upon me. I invite criticism and opposition of any kind. But to those who may wish to critisize or oppose I give the warning that just as I ask no quarter from them, none will be granted. Let there be no mistake as to my intentions. In harmony with the name of my publication, I am in open rebellion against the shameful, cowardly and dishonorable conduct of Premier William Aberhart and his government; and I urge all liberty-loving citizens to join in this rebellion by giving voice to their repudiation of the unholy, anti-British machinations of Aberhart and his gang of irresponsible puppets. There must be no compromising of the principles of liberty and justice upon which the greatness of the Empire rests, with the philosophy of hatred, intolerance, dictation and suppression fostered by the power-mad demagogue Aberhart. There can be no peace while ideals so mutually contradictory are striving for supremacy. One or the other must be destroyed. And in my opinion, the only way in which the blight of Aberhartism can be removed from this province is by fearless publication of the truth in terms that shall divest Aberhart of his cloak of pretended piety, strip his public utterances of their sanctimonious camouflage, and reveal the duplicity of his conduct.

—J. J. ZUBICK, Editor, The Rebel

## TO PREMIER ABERHART

The Rebel wants you to understand, Mr. Premier, that this publication was not launched in a spirit of malice or personal animosity toward you. We want you to know that the step was taken only after long and serious and, yes, prayerful, consideration.

You, personally, enter into the picture only in so far as you are, personally, the representation of the evil which it is our desire to attack. There is no malice or hatred toward you personally; but we do hate, with all our heart and soul and mind, your lying, your slandering, your baspheming, your wilful deceptions, your boycotting, your threats and intimidations. We hate and despise the methods you employed to gain power. If you had won a fair fight by honest and honorable methods, we would respect and honor you. But you insinuated yourself into power by the lowest form of deception ever practiced in the political history of Canada. You gained power by using the highest and noblest thing in life—religion—to appeal to the lowest—to greed, selfishness, cupidity. By using this fiendish combination, you set loose an uncontrollable flood of passion. You set neighbor against neighbor, friend against friend, brother against brother, man against wife. And then you crucified a suffering people upon the cross of your vanity and ambition.

Therefore, as you are the personification of the iniquity in the problem before us, it is necessary to deal with the problem in a manner correspondingly personal. That problem is not of our making. It is a problem of your own making. By intruding your personality into the problem in your personal manner, you became the problem. You must therefore suffer the consequences of your relationship to the problem.

We desire to assure you that apart from the contempt we have for you in point of your relationship to the problem as indicated above, we have only sympathy and pity for you; for we know that in due time you will suffer the consequences of your terrible folly. But while we pity you personally, we must hate the evils you personify.

Our suggestion to you is that the only honorable course for you to pursue is to make an open confession of your guilt. If you have the courage to do this, it will be possible for you to retire from office with at least some small show of decency and dignity. If you have not the courage to do it, your ultimate and inevitable exposure for what you are will undoubtedly force you into a retirement of disgrace and dishonor that shall haunt you to your dying day and remain as a nauseous memory to Albertans for all time.

Finally, if you should consider us unfair or untruthful in our estimate and judgment of you, we invite you to correct us. We speak of you as we do because we consider it our duty to do so, because we honestly believe that you are a serious menace to the welfare of our country; and, further, we are convinced that down in your heart you realize that we are but telling you the truth. However, if you think us wrong, you owe it to yourself and the cause you profess to serve to put us right or to compel us to make retraction. Have you the courage to meet this challenge?

## COMPLETELY INDEPENDENT

Some time ago an independent anti-Aberhart newspaper appeared on the scene, and, perhaps for the reason that it gave considerable prominence to radio addresses from spokesmen for the People's League, or possibly for no particular reason at all, the suggestion was immediately made that the paper was sponsored by the League.

In order to forestall similar rumors concerning The Rebel, we wish to make it clear that this publication has no connections whatsoever with any organization or individual apart from the publisher. We are under financial or moral obligation to no one but ourself, and it is our intention to remain in that happy position.

# IS ABERHART TRUTHFUL?

We are not alone in our condemnation of Aberhart's carelessness with the truth, and just to indicate what some of his own followers have discovered in this regard, we quote from some recent utterances by leading Social Crediters:

J. P. McCaffery, Calgary barrister, speaking of Aberhart at a Social Credit meeting in Calgary: "You cannot believe a word he says . . . He has lied on so many occasions that it has become a habit with him . . . He has double-crossed us on this social credit question . . . It is about time we substituted reason for noise . . . facts and figures for flights of imagination . . . The fifty Big Shots are fifty-one now, because we have one in Edmonton who is worse than any of them . . . We'll never get Social Credit in Alberta while a summerfallow individual of his nature is in command . . . It hurts me to the core to think that I stumped through Alberta prior to the election asking the people to have faith in this man . . . Fancy asking people to have faith in a man who deliberately lies to his own people and followers. Did not he lie about the resignation of Ross? Didn't he lie about his trip to the Coronation? Didn't he lie about his dealings with Hargrave, Douglas and others? He has failed to live up to any of his promises."

Alex Bedard, Social Credit candidate in the federal election, at the same meeting: "I remember when I heard that gentleman tell us all to cancel our subscriptions to the Calgary Herald I was one of the 'dumb nuts' who went right away and stopped the Herald because I believed in the man who is now Premier. Since then I have found out that the Calgary Herald was telling the truth and was the one we should believe and that Premier Aberhart contradicted himself so much that no one could believe him."

# ABERHART'S TRICK LOGIC

A short time ago, Alex Bedard, prominent Social Crediter, for some reason or another stated that Mr. Aberhart had deposited the sum of $40,000 in a Vancouver bank. Mr. Aberhart's denial of this a few days later, from his pulpit in Edmonton, given an excellent insight into his twisted mind and the trickery he employes to fool his followers. Mr. Aberhart swept all this aside by the solemn declaration that he had not deposited the alleged sum in a bank in SEATTLE. Incidentally, he also denied at the time that he was "wealthy." "Did you ever hear of a school teacher," he said, "who is wealthy."

Childish and stupid as this sort of trickery and deception is, it nevertheless appears to satisfy his dupes. The method he uses is simply that of refuting an accusation which has not been made by falsely imputing the accusation to an opponent. It is like a man accused of stealing a horse denying the charge by saying that he nad not stolen a flock of sheep.

Aberhart has employed the same trickery throughout his campaign, and the amazing fact is that he has gotten away with it. Undoubtedly, the explanation is largely in the extreme brazenness of the deception itself. Add to this the religious trimmings, plus the desire to believe, and it is not so surprising that some people believe Aberhart even when in their hearts they know that he is uttering a blasphemous falsehood.

But, "Oh, what a tangled web we weave when first we practice to deceive!"

# NOT A PLEASANT TASK

While we enter into this venture of publishing The Rebel with something of the thrill that comes with entering upon an adventure into the unknown, there is one feeling among the great number of others preying upon us at this time which should, we think, be shared with our readers. This feeling is in the appreciation of the unpleasantness of the task itself. It should not be necessary to point out that we take no delight in saying the harsh, bitter things we are saying of Aberhart and Aberhartism, and while it will undoubtedly be impossible to convince the biased critic that we have no ulterior motive to serve in doing what we are doing in the manner in which we are doing it, we wish to state just as a matter of record, that we do not take pleasure in, shall we say, the hurting of those whom we criticize.

It is the need for doing this very unpleasant task that is the motivating force which drives us to perform it. It is not a pleasant thing to have a tooth extracted; but it may be a very good and needful thing to do. It is not a pleasant thing to accuse the premier of our province of being a liar, even though in doing so one is speaking the truth.

There is pleasure, nevertheless, in doing things of an unpleasant nature, provided the act is done from a sense of duty. And it is in this sense that we purpose to carry on in a task which we admit to be in itself most unpleasant.

# THE WEEKLY PRESS

One of the strikingly significant facts only now coming to proper recognition is that throughout the entire period of wild fanaticism in the province during the past few years, practically every weekly newspaper of Alberta has remained uninfected by the poisonous virus of Aberhartism. We understand that only two or three weeklies fell in behind Aberhart. The vast majority, however, declined to be fooled by the magic of the Great Delusionist, and in the face of hostile opposition, boycott and general ingratitude, they stuck to their guns. At great personal sacrifice, many of them have consistently fought valiantly for the preservation of freedom from destruction by the iniquitous scheming of Aberhart; and when Alberta has finally rid herself of this Prussian-minded would-be dictator, much of the credit for the liberation will be due to the courage and common sense of the editors of our weekly newspapers. As a former member of the Canadian Weekly Newspapers' Association, we salute you, editors of the weekly press, valiant guardians of freedom. The day is fast approaching when those who reviled you will bless you for having protected them against themselves.

# THE PEOPLE'S LEAGUE

We are all for the general, broad principles enunciated so far by the People's League, particularly those having in view the preservation of British ideals and institutions, and we believe that under the peculiar and serious circumstances prevailing in the province, those more seriously concerned with the maintenance of democracy than party or immediate personal advantage, may well lend their support to the League. After all, as the Rt. Hon. Mr. Bennett pointed out during his recent visit here, the mess in which we find ourselves is of our own making, due to our own failure to discharge the responsibilities of citizenship. And, as parties are but instruments for gaining an end, party differences may well be, and indeed should be, brushed aside in circumstance where the problem before the people as a whole is of such a vital nature as to call for united action on the basis of the fundamental principles underlying all parties built upon British concepts of democracy. The problem before the people of Alberta is of such a nature. There is a definite challenge to our democratic institutions of liberty and justice, and the call to defend these institutions is of far greater urgency than the secondary considerations of purely partizan interests.

There is, however, one criticism which we would offer in all kindliness to the People's League, and we are sure that it will be received in the spirit in which it is tendered. It is this: Spokesmen for the League have declared from time to time that its membership is composed of men and women who have no political ambitions. That is just so much "hooey." If the League is to serve a useful purpose, its membership should be politically ambitious. We feel, of course, that these claims of absence of political ambitions are intended to mean the small, narrow, self-seeking kind. But it should be superfluous to make any such disavowal, and it is certainly inadvisable out of consideration for the feelings of those who may be fitted by special knowledge and honest political ambitions to serve their country more ably than those who have in the past taken little if any interest in public affairs and who would not do so now but for the emergency that has arisen to shake them out of their lethargy.

# NEXT ISSUE MAY 14

In order to allow for plenty of time for thorough distribution of this first issue of The Rebel, to complete various arrangements incidental to the mechanical and business angles of the venture, the date for the next issue has been tentatively set for Friday, May 14th. If a change should be found necessary, it will be announced in the press before that date.

# BOURCIER - - EXPERT GRAPHOLOGIST?

A. V. Bourcier, one of the insurgent Social Credit members of the legislature, is a graphologist; and our experience with him indicates that his graphological powers are not to be sneezed at.

Some months ago we received a sample copy of "Today and Tomorrow," a paper published jointly (then, at any rate) by the Hon. Lucien Maynard and Mr. Bourcier, and one of the first things to attract our attention was an advertisement offering a "grapho-analysis" of one's handwriting along with a subscription to the paper. To make a long story short, we submitted our handwriting to Mr. Bourcier in the form of a nice, long letter, in which we suggested that he should try his graphological stunt on Mr. Aberhart's lovely school-teacher penmanship, and that if he knew his stuff, the analysis would undoubtedly reveal Mr. Aberhart as perhaps the worst liar in the history of Canada.

It would seem that Mr. Bourcier did his stuff, for shortly after this he "insurged," and judging by what he had to say in the House during the recent session, the hearts of Bourcier and The Rebel beat as one. Incidentally, Mr. Bourcier's analysis of our chirography was most flattering. Thank you, Albert!

# "WHAT HAVE YOU TO OFFER?"

One of the first criticisms that will undoubtedly be directed against us for opposing Aberhartism is the old standby: "What have you to offer?" Our reply to this is that our immediate purpose is not to offer any political plan, but to destroy an existing evil. We may, however, point out that we have never uttered one word against Social Credit, and we admit that if this theory were placed before the people of Alberta and we were convinced that there were a reasonable chance for its successful application, we would gladly give it our support. In the meantime, there are many plans being offered by as many political parties—plans which can be analysed and studied and discussed on the basis of their real presence, with the exception of Social Credit, the party of which is the only one which has not offered a plan. So, we throw the question back into the teeth of the would-be Social Crediter: "What have YOU to offer?"

# THE CALGARY HERALD

Many times during the past few years we have become impatient with The Herald over what we regarded as its too easy-going opposition to Aberhartism, and many times were annoyed because some of our frequent "letters to the Editor" were either deprived of their sting by the blue pencil of the editor or not published at all. On the other hand, we have marvelled over the generosity of the Herald towards its critics and opponents, over the restraint it has exercised under the most trying conditions of the past two years.

# THE ALBERTAN

When The Albertan was "sold" to the Aberhart party, we wrote to the then editor, in part, as follows: "I do not see how it will be possible for you to be either fair or honest. If your paper is going to champion the cause of Social Credit as represented by Aberhartism, it seems to me that, since the entire scheme is one of deception, you will be forced into ruthless unfairness and dishonesty. In order to further this Alberta brand of Social Credit, you will be compelled to dedicate yourself to the glorification of sham and hypocrisy. You will not dare to tell the truth, for if your conscience should drive you to do this, you would wreck the movement immediately. One of your unpleasant tasks will be to camouflage, sugar-coat or deny the frequent misrepresentations and downright lies of Mr. Aberhart . . . How you can lend your support to this unscrupulous demagogue is something I cannot understand; but if I know as much as I think I know of the ethics of journalism and of the soul of a real newspaperman, then you will not be on the job very long as editor of the Social Credit Albertan."

What happened? The then editor as well as the city news editor of that time could not stand the pressure on their consciences, and they are now with another newspaper.

What is going to happen? It has been very noticeable for a long time that the present editor-in-chief and general manager of the Albertan is not exactly a red-hot Aberhart worshipper. In fact, editorial expressions every now and then indicate that he is somewhat sick of the sham and hyprocrisy of Aberhartism. That is because he happens to be a real newspaperman and a gentleman. And while we are no prophet, we are going to make the prediction that in the not distant future the present editor of the Albertah will either step from his post, or commence to lambast the tar out of Aberhart.

# PROOF IS COMING

While some evidence in substantiation of our charges against Mr. Aberhart appears in this issue, further and more specific proof will be forthcoming in subsequent issues of The Rebel.

The main purpose of this first issue is to indicate our intentions, and also, in fairness to Mr. Aberhart, to give him an opportunity of either pleading guilty to our charges while he may do so before all of the damning proof of his iniquity, which he knows to be in our possession, is published.

# "GOATS" FOR ABIE'S "BULLS"

A short time ago Mrs. Edith Gostick, M.L.A., stated that she was the one responsible for the now famous "13-year old mentality" statement, attributed, under oath, to Aberhart by one of his former associates in Vancouver.

And at High River the other night the Hon. Mr. Fallow took the rap for Aberhart in the matter of his intention to go to the Coronation. According to The Albertan, he said: "Premier Aberhart has told you that he never said he was going to the Coronation, and I want to bear out that statement . . . I paid the deposit of $200 from the treasury to insure his travel accommodation."

The joke lies in the absurdity of Aberhart's passing the "buck" to friends so simple-minded as to defend him against accusations existing only in the guilt of his conscience. No one has accused Aberhart of having said that he "was going" to the Coronation. But there was a big fuss raised over his declared "intention" to go, which is an entirely different matter, and the fact that travel accommodation was reserved for him settles the point in this regard beyond the possibility of dispute. It indicates, too, that his alleged estimate of the public mentality as being that of a 13-year old child would overstate the case considerably when applied to him and the willing "goats" for his silly "bulls."


## SUBSCRIPTION FORM

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